(b) if so, what action Government have taken to develop the inland water transportation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFCAE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a first step of development of inland water transport in the country, the Government have declared three waterways viz. (i) the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms.) and (iii) the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 kms.) alongwith Champakara Canal (14 kms). and Udyogmandal Canal (23 kms.) as National Waterways for their development for inland water transport. The Government have also set up the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in 1986, which is responsible for carrying out various developmental works like dredging, channel marking, etc. in the National Waterways for improving and maintaining its navigability. The IWAI has formulated a detailed policy/strategy for the development and expansion of inland water transport in the country. Under this policy it is planned to develop the National Waterways No. 1 to 3 by providing necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigational aids, bank protection in narrow stretches etc.

Development of National Highways in Gujarat and Maharashtra

5596. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total length of national highways in Gujarat and Maharashtra, district-wise, alongwith their respective route numbers;

(b) what is the total length of roads covered by the national highways in the each district of these States;

(c) whether the development of national highways in each district of Gujarat and Maharashtra has been taken up;

(d) if so, the detais thereof and the amount spent for the purpose during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, district-wise in both the States; and

(e) whether the Gujarat and Maharashtra Government have sought additional central funds for the development of national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the respective State Government and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion and improvement of Calcutta and Haldia Ports

5597. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to adopt a comprehensive plan for expansion and improvement of Calcutta and Haldia ports through private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the Government Policy about privatisation in ports, the following areas/activities at Calcutta Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex have already been furnished to private parties on long term basis;

(i) Berth No. 8 along with 35,000 Sq. mtrs. of land at Haldia Dock Complex has been leased out for improvement of facilities and also for management of cargo handling operations at the Berth and the adjacent land; and

(ii) Two dry docks at Netaji Subhas Dock in Calcutta along with an adjacent area have been leased out for ship repair facilities at Calcutta Dock System.

Proposal to improve National Highways in Bihar

5598. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve national highways passing through Bihar during the current year;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to connect Patna to Muzzafarpur which is at a distance of about seventy five kilometers, with the national highways going to Nepal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. The Annual Plan 1995-96 provides for the improvement works amounting to Rs. 161.00 crores proposed to be taken up on National Highways in Bihar;

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Reported poor condition of roads

5599. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Dangerous roads deter NRI investor's, appearing in the Times of India dated the 9th January, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table the House.

Delay in execution of work pertaining to National highways 17 and 48

5600. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the abnormal delay in sanctioning administrative approval and financial assistance, even for the approved works in the Ministry of Surface Trasport;

(b) if so, the number of such works pending execution and since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of the work of construction of a new bridge across river Netherapathi on National Highway 48 at Panemangalore and a new bridge across river Sharavathi on National Highway 17 at Honnavar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Administrative approval and financial sanction for the works included in the Annual Plans is a continuous activity and is subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority of works. Execution of works by States is followed by a tendering procedure for selection of contractors.

(c) The work of construction of a new bridge across river Netheravathi on NH-48 has been sanctioned and the State PWD have already been advised to award the work to the selected contractor. The proposal to construct a new bridge across river